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# Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

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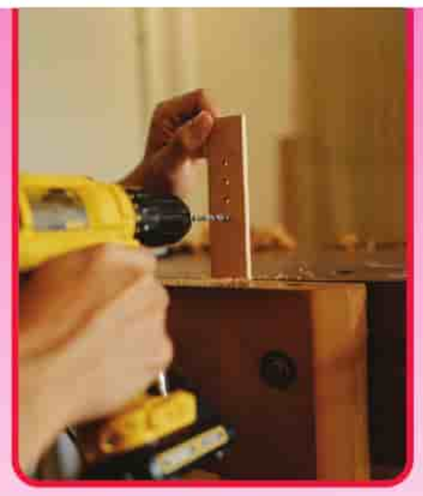

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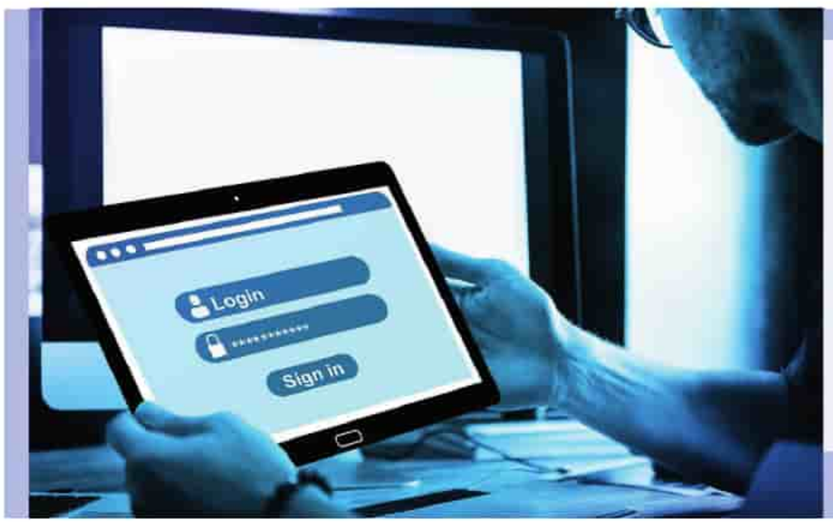
## NO PRECAUTIONS

Activists upset with BBMP plan to allow animal birth control surgery of dogs infected with canine distemper in same centres where healthy dogs are brought in

PAGE 2




## SITE OF SCAM

Karnataka Examinations Authority flags fraudulent website posing as its official platform and collecting sensitive data from students to send spam emails

PAGE 3

## Kattas or country-made guns maybe cheap and rudimentary, but they are lethal enough to be the weapon of choice for goons as they are untraceable and easily available

# LONG & SHOT OF IT

### These are typically single-shot pistols as barrel gets damaged soon

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**“A lot of the illegal katta manufacturing used to happen in states like Bihar and UP, making it easy to source and circulate them at cheap rates. However, this has come down significantly now due to strict enforcement**

—Police official

The Central Crime Branch (CCB) has arrested a rowdy-sheeter for possession of an unlicenced country-made firearm, once again highlighting the continued presence of illegal weapons in Bengaluru's crime circles.

Acting on a tip-off, the Organised Crime Squad (East Division) picked up 32-year-old rowdy-sheeter, who was under possession of unlicenced guns/pistols sourced from Delhi. Investigations revealed that he had planned to sell the weapon and bullets at a marked-up price. The CCB registered a case and launched a detailed probe after securing necessary approvals from senior officials.

This case is part of a broader pattern. For years, crude firearms made in the illegal gun markets of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh have made their way into Bengaluru, arming rowdies and organised gangs. These kattas, though cheap and rudimentary, are lethal and have become a weapon of choice due to their easy availability and untraceable nature.

Police say that kattas are often used and then quickly disposed of, making it difficult for investigators to track ownership or establish ballistic links. “A lot of the illegal katta manufacturing used to happen in states like Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, making it easy to source and circulate them at cheap rates. However, this has come down significantly now due to strict enforcement,” a senior police official said.

### Crackdowns

This isn't a one-off case. While the crackdown in source states has led to a dip in supply, case like this indicate that the flow hasn't completely stopped.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

# Every cloud has a silver lining

### Rain breathes life into Bengaluru's parched lakes; storage levels improve after grim summer spell

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After a worrying start to the summer marked by dried-up lakes and receding groundwater levels, the rain in May has brought much-needed relief to Bengaluru's water bodies. According to the latest report from the BBMP dated May 20, water levels in the city's lakes have improved significantly, with many reservoirs now nearing or even exceeding their Full Tank Level (FTL).

The citywide average storage now stands at approximately 40% of the total capacity, a notable recovery from early April when it was just 35%, and 53 lakes had gone completely dry.

In early April, Bengaluru's lakes painted a bleak picture. Despite good rainfall in 2024, an intense and prolonged summer had left nearly a third of the city's active lakes barren. Of the 202 lakes under BBMP's jurisdiction, 183 are considered active, and 53 of them had dried up completely.

The remaining 130 were struggling with dangerously low levels, storing only 10,980 million litres against a total potential of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

## THINGS TO DO

### 01 Lyrical workshop

The Indian Music Experience Museum is organising a unique masterclass titled 'Rhythm and Poetry', led by Gubbi—a multilingual rapper and one of Bengaluru's pioneering voices in hip-hop. **Where: Indian Music Experience Museum, JP Nagar; When: May 25, 11 am**

### 02 Curious minds

PlayQuakes is presenting 'Little Architects of Bengaluru: Designing a Smarter City in India', a hands-on workshop where children aged 9–14 will explore technology, design, and history by building their own lit-up city models. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: May 24, 11 am**

### 03 Just joking

Known for his clean and relatable humour, Vipul Goyal's comedy covering everyday topics like Indian families, social media, and daily life quirks, delivered with sharp wit and charm, will be brought live to stage. **Where: Phoenix Mall of Asia, Yelahanka; When: May 24, 7.30 pm**

### 04 Stage craft

Theatrenama is presenting 'Suno toh sahi', a delightful theatrical experience that reimagines Anton Chekhov's stories with a Hindustani flair. The play follows musical banter between a couple, unfolding stories filled with humour, emotion, and fun. **Where: Vyoma ArtSpace and Studio Theatre, JP Nagar; When: May 24, 4 pm and 7 pm**

### 05 Musical evening

Phoenix Marketcity is set to host Salim-Sulaiman, the dynamic duo who have contributed masterpieces to the Indian music landscape, live in concert. **Where: Phoenix Marketcity, Whitefield; When: May 24, 7 pm**

# Change in BBMP's ABC protocol sparks scepticism

## Activists oppose protocol revision citing risks associated with conducting birth control surgeries for canine distemper-recovered dogs with healthy dogs at same facility

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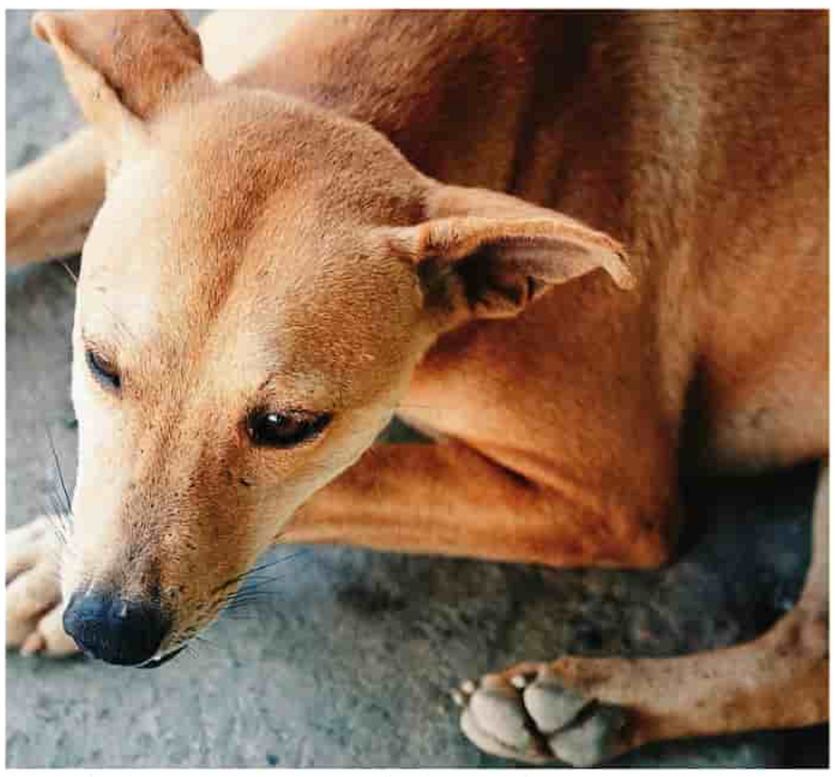
Animal welfare workers in the city have raised concern over a recent circular from the Animal Husbandry Department of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

As per the circular, dated May 6, BBMP has revised its Animal Birth Control (ABC) surgery protocol for dogs that have recovered from canine distemper (CD). Instead of conducting surgeries at a dedicated facility, these procedures will be taking place at ABC centres across different zones. Although the circular underlines that the surgery room will be disinfected and fumigated before bringing in healthy dogs, the activists remain sceptical about the lack of a separate facility.

Priya Chetty-Rajagopal of CJ Memorial Trust, who is a city-based animal welfare worker, said that some of the BBMP's ABC centres are in poor condition, with some even lacking basic facilities like tap water. "Disinfecting areas that have earlier housed CD dogs is a meticulous process, and the ABC centres are not equipped to handle it," she said.

Activists underlined that the ABC centres, despite all precautions, contribute to multiple CD cases across the city. It is believed that given the situation, operating CD-recovered dogs in ABC centres is a matter of concern.



BBMP's circular underlines that the surgery room will be disinfected and fumigated before bringing in healthy dogs

Harini Raghavan from Citizens for Animal Birth Control, noted that a solution is to isolate the dogs in the centre and disinfect the space before bringing in healthy dogs. "However, the catchers, nets used to trap the dogs, vans used to transport them, and veterinarians handling both healthy and CD-recovered dogs will be the same," she highlighted, stating that additionally pinpointing carriers will be difficult unless the centres have a strong protocol in place with inputs from medical experts in the city. "All these risks are eliminated in the case of one dedicated centre with separate staff and vets coordinating with citizens and animal welfare groups to pick up and drop off CD-infected dogs," said Raghavan.

BBMP has an ABC centre dedicated to CD-infected dogs in Sumanahalli, RR Nagar, which is operational and run by an NGO along with BBMP's ABC partner, COVA. Experts said that creating the centre was a move in the right direction, and the effort needs to be stepped up. However, officials from the Animal Husbandry Department said that the centre in RR Nagar is a failed experiment. With a capacity to accommodate seven to eight dogs, the centre will now be catering to CD-infected dogs only from RR Nagar and Dasarahalli.

"We tried to use the centre to conduct ABC surgeries of CD-infected dogs for three months. However, it did not work out. The centre will now be used for ABC surgeries of CD dogs from RR Nagar and Dasarahalli zones," said an official from the Animal Husbandry department. The official highlighted that for the rest of the zones, ABC centres will be used for surgeries on CD-infected dogs three months after they have recovered from the infection. "We have started doing combined vaccination. Moreover, after three months, shedding of the virus is minimal. The centre has limited capacity and cannot cater to cases from across the city," said the official.

> **"All these risks are eliminated in the case of one dedicated centre with separate staff and vets coordinating with citizens and animal welfare groups to pick up and drop off CD-infected dogs**
> – Harini Raghavan, Citizens for Animal Birth Control

# Tamannaah's brand ambassadorship sparks protest

The appointment of Tamannaah Bhatia as the brand ambassador of Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Limited (KSDL), with a hefty Rs 6.2 crore paid for a two-year promotional contract, has sparked controversy. Several pro-Kannada activists have expressed strong objections and even staged a protest outside KSDL on Friday.

Large and Medium Industries Minister MB Patil said that Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Limited, a symbol of Karnataka's pride and cultural identity, must be guided by market dynamics and competitive strategy when it comes to business decisions. Responding to criticism over the appointment of actress Tamannaah as brand ambassador, the minister clarified that the decision was taken based on expert recommendations and should not be viewed negatively.

Speaking to media persons on Friday, Patil defended the move amidst backlash that a non-Kannada ambassador undermines the brand's local ethos. "As someone from the Vachana tradition, I hold deep respect for Kannada, Kannadigas and Karnataka. I also admire local artists. But in matters of business, competitiveness must take precedence," he said. Since taking charge of the department, Patil noted, KSDL's production has grown by 40% without any major investment in machinery. The company has seen a 15% growth in the Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) sector, outpacing competitors like Godrej (11%), Hindustan Unilever (9%), ITC (8%), and Wipro (7%). "Our goal is to increase KSDL's turnover to Rs 5,000 crore in the next three years. If that happens, we may even require a Hollywood celebrity as our brand ambassador. I hope we reach that level," he added.

Before finalising Tamannaah, the company approached top Kannada-speaking actresses such as Deepika Padukone and Rashmika Mandanna. Others considered included Sreeleela, Pooja Hegde, and Kiara Advani. However, many were either already committed to other beauty and skincare brands or unavailable for the next two years. Given Tamannaah's pan-India appeal and her massive social media following of 28 million, she was selected to lead KSDL's branding efforts. Patil also revealed that KSDL recently launched 21 new products and is now preparing to enter the fragrance segment. **— BMB**

# Siblings to get ₹5 lakh in damages

The Karnataka High Court has determined that under section 163-A of the Motor Vehicles Act, vehicle involvement and accident occurrence are the primary considerations, rather than negligence. Justice Lalitha Kanneganti awarded Rs 5 lakh each to two siblings who suffered the loss of their parents in an accident approximately 13 years ago.

H Girish and H Yatish approached the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal, Bengaluru, requesting Rs 15 lakh each in compensation. Their parents, Gayathri and Huchcha Hanumaiah, lost their lives in a collision between two cars on NH-4 near Dodderi Village, Nelamangala on April 1, 2012. The compensation request was based on the loss of their family's primary income sources. Their father served as a police constable whilst their mother contributed through her tailoring work. The tribunal dismissed the claim on July 11, 2013, noting that both brothers were gainfully employed–one as an assistant professor and the other as a television channel technician. Additionally, the tribunal found insufficient evidence of rash driving by the other vehicle.

The brothers challenged this decision in the High Court, arguing that under section 163-A of Motor Vehicles Act, only the accident and vehicle involvement required proof, not negligence.

The court acknowledged that vehicle involvement obligates the insurance company to provide compensation. Citing the Supreme Court's decision in New India Assurance Co Ltd v/s Urmila Halder, the court instructed the insurance company to compensate each brother with Rs 5 lakh. **— BMB**

# Technology meets design in smart homes

Besides minimising environmental impact, sustainable smart homes prioritise aesthetics and functionality with sleek designs that integrate modern technology with stylish décor. For instance, intelligent lighting systems offer customisable options for creating the perfect ambience. From voice-controlled assistants to intelligent mirrors, every aspect of a home is thoughtfully designed to enhance aesthetics and functionality, offering a glimpse into the future of modern living.

Contemporary home design greatly emphasises technological integration, especially for remote professionals. Uninterrupted Internet connectivity and readiness for IoT are essential. Smart home technology can be embraced without compromising the aesthetic integrity of your living space. You can achieve these prerequisites without cluttering your home with cables and wires. A comprehensive home design includes robust Wi-Fi connectivity, smart home features, IoT integration, and adaptability. Intelligent solutions that save time and money on installation and equipment costs are necessary.

### Enhancing living

A smart home doesn't mean sacrificing the joy of natural light and ventilation through windows and balconies. It enhances this experience through innovative design and technology, allowing residents to control sunlight and airflow with features like remote-controlled curtains. This thoughtful approach enhances energy efficiency and creates a bright, airy environment.

The rapid advancement of technology has brought forth several challenges. However, technology also provides solutions when combined with information technologies. Smart designs represent a significant technological evolution with immense growth potential, adapting to serve occupants' increasingly complex lifestyles. Collaboration among building stakeholders drives innovation, leading to sophisticated and intelligent designs. From IoT integration to home automation systems, these innovations redefine how we interact with living spaces. **—Jaskaran Singh, Architect, for Femina**

# Con alert: Fake KCET website harvests students' private data

**Fraudulent website posing as KCET's portal duped students by collecting sensitive information; authorities are urging caution against similar scams**

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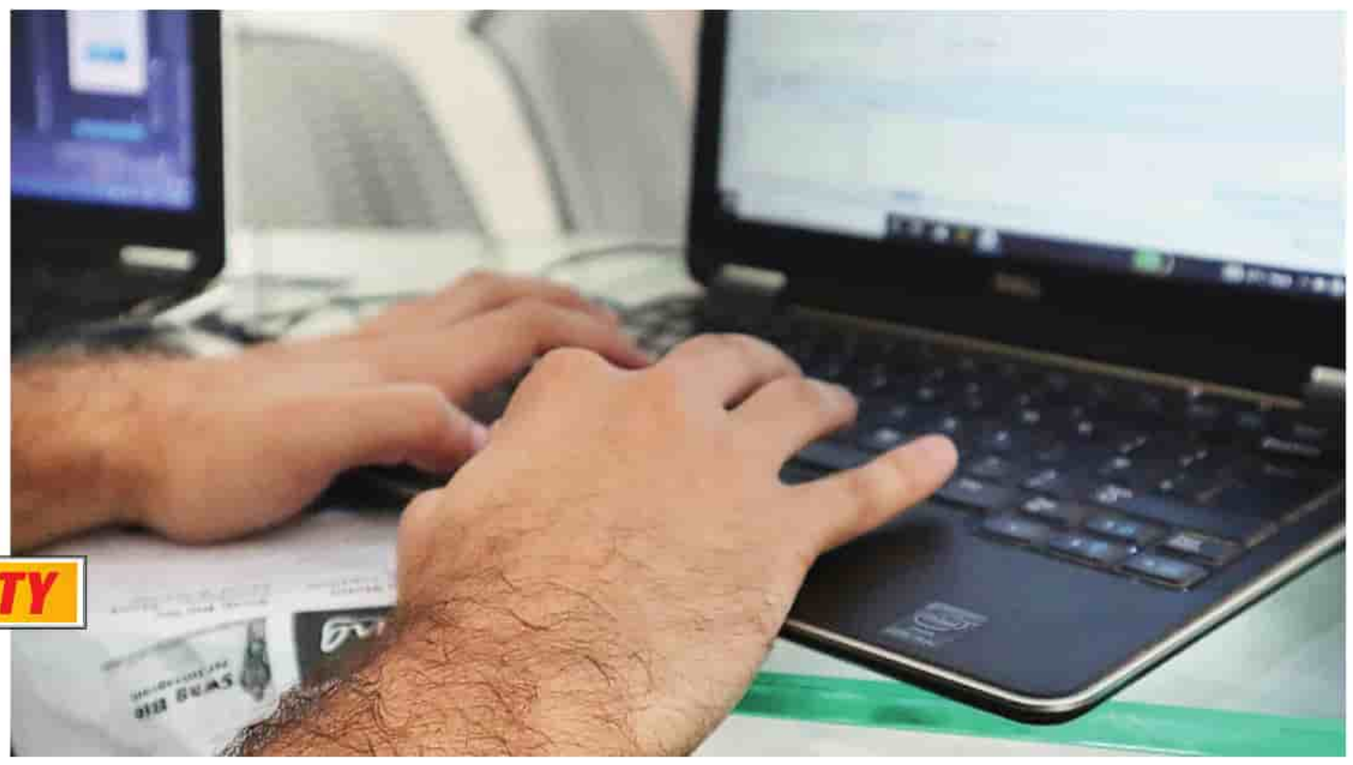

CITY

The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) has flagged a fraudulent website (https://k-cet.org) posing as its official platform and collecting sensitive data from students. The fake site was active between April 9 and May 20, 2025, mimicking KEA's official layout and misleading users during the peak of exam and admission season.

KEA clarified that its only official website is https://cetonline.karnataka.gov.in/kea/, and emphasised that it does not collect personal data through its portal. However, the fraudulent site reportedly captured names, phone numbers, email IDs, and even social media details of unsuspecting candidates.

An FIR has been filed at the CEN police station (North Division), and an investigation is currently underway. Authorities are pursuing legal action against those responsible for the cybercrime.

This is not the first time such scams have targeted students. In recent years, several fake websites and social media accounts have emerged during exam and admission periods, impersonating education boards, recruitment agencies, and universities. These platforms often aim to steal personal data, solicit unofficial payments, or misguide applicants with false information.

In 2023, a similar fake portal mimicking the University Grants Commission (UGC) website was discovered, misleading students into applying for fake scholarships. Likewise, fraudulent job portals claiming to offer positions in government agencies have siphoned money and data from young aspirants.

Cybersecurity experts warn that with rising internet dependency in education, scammers are increasingly targeting digital platforms that cater to students. They urge institutions to actively monitor the web for impersonators and conduct awareness drives to educate students and parents about identifying and reporting fake websites.

Law enforcement officials advise users to always verify URLs, avoid sharing personal information on unfamiliar sites, and report suspicious digital activity to cybercrime authorities.

### CBI scam cons elderly man

A senior citizen was duped of Rs 4 lakh in the early hours of May 15 after receiving a fraudulent phone call from a person posing as a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) officer.

According to the complaint, the victim received the call around 2.36 am from an unknown number. The caller falsely claimed that an FIR had been filed against him in a money laundering case and threatened immediate arrest unless he transferred money.

Frightened and confused, the victim transferred Rs 4 lakh in multiple transactions to the account provided by the fraudster. Once he realised he had been scammed, he reported the incident at the CEN police station (North Division). A case has been registered, and an investigation is ongoing. This case highlights the growing number of cyber frauds targeting elderly citizens, who are often vulnerable due to limited awareness of digital scams.

IN BRIEF

## Metro voyeur held

A man running an Instagram page that secretly posted photos and videos of women travelling on the Bengaluru metro was arrested by the Banashankari police on Friday.

The accused, identified as Diganth, was operating the account @metro_chicks (titled Bangalore Metro Clicks and official metro logo) which had over 5,000 followers and featured content recorded without the women's knowledge or consent. The page showcased multiple images and videos of women commuters, both on metro platforms and inside the trains. Officials confirmed that none of the women featured were aware they were being filmed.

The issue came to light after a concerned user flagged the account on X (formerly Twitter) and tagged Bengaluru Police, prompting swift action. **BMB**

## New DG-IGP unveils vision

A day after taking charge as Karnataka's new Director General and Inspector General of Police (DG-IGP), MA Saleem has outlined a clear roadmap to reform and strengthen the state police force with a focus on modernisation, transparency, and public trust.

In his first official message to police personnel, Saleem called for collective effort, ethical conduct, and a shift toward community-focused policing. "Let us work together to build a peaceful and safe environment in our state," the statement read.

Key priorities outlined in his vision include keeping law and order in check by taking timely action, focusing on crime investigations that support and protect victims, being honest and transparent, especially while dealing with poor and vulnerable communities, taking care of police officers' health and mental well-being, ensuring the safety of women and children through strict law enforcement and public awareness, cracking down on drugs, and improving traffic safety to prevent accidents. **BMB**

# Farmland beckons: Urban escape with profits and peace

For city dwellers looking to spend their days in green spaces, there's no better option than farmland. With increasing demand for farmland over homes and plots, many city residents are now purchasing productive lands where they can grow everything from sandalwood to fruits, vegetables, and spices, all while earning a steady income and enjoying the peace of nature.

Farmland investment is becoming an increasingly attractive option for urban residents, especially those from rapidly growing cities like Bangalore and Mysore. Seeking an escape from congested city life and rising property prices, many are now opting for agricultural land that offers both relaxation and returns.

These farmlands, often situated just 35–40 minutes from Bangalore and a short drive from Mysore Road, are well-connected by major highways. Locations like Ramanagara emerging as part of Greater Bangalore—are seeing sharp rises in land value, making these properties more than just scenic retreats.

What sets these lands apart is the potential for cultivating high-value crops. Sandalwood, once difficult to grow due to strict regulations, can now be legally farmed and is in high demand. Alongside this, crops like mango, coconut, and a variety of spices add further value, offering both a sustainable lifestyle and supplementary income.

In addition to agricultural use, many farmland developments come with modern amenities such as weekend cottages, farming demonstrations, and animal husbandry experiences.

These features have turned rural plots into desirable lifestyle investments, especially for families and professionals looking for weekend getaways or a secondary source of income.

This shift reflects a larger trend of city dwellers craving greener, quieter environments without sacrificing growth potential. Buying farmland is no longer just a sentimental decision; it's a strategic one that combines personal wellness, environmental consciousness, and financial foresight.

For many, the move toward farmland is a step toward a more grounded and meaningful life, one that reconnects them with nature while preparing them for a secure future.

**—Prakash VL**

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# Bengaluru reigns supreme in GCC office leases Q1 2025

Bengaluru has once again cemented its position as India's leading hub for Global Capability Centres (GCCs), accounting for the largest share of gross office space leasing among the top seven Indian cities in the first quarter of 2025.

According to the latest data from real estate consultancy ANAROCK, Bengaluru alone accounted for approximately 3.3 million sq. ft. of the 8.35 million sq. ft. gross office space leased by GCCs in Q1 2025 — capturing a commanding 40% share, the highest among all cities. Together with Chennai and Hyderabad, the southern cities made up a dominant 64% of GCC leasing activity.

"Bengaluru continues to attract strong interest from GCCs, thanks to its deep talent pool and established tech ecosystem," said Peush Jain, Managing Director Commercial Leasing & Advisory at ANAROCK Group. "The city led the charts with 3.3 million sq. ft. in Q1 2025, followed by Delhi-NCR with 1.91 million sq. ft. and Chennai with 1.22 million sq. ft."

Overall, gross office leasing across India's top seven cities touched 19.47 million sq. ft. in the first quarter, with GCCs contributing a significant 43% share. This marks a sharp 72% year-on-year growth compared to Q1 2024, when GCCs leased around 4.87 million sq. ft.

Sector-wise, the IT/ITeS segment continued to dominate leasing demand, accounting for 35% of GCC office space transactions. The Banking, Financial Services and Insurance (BFSI) sector followed with a 22% share, while manufacturing and industrial firms made up 13%. E-commerce and consultancy sectors contributed 6% and 5%, respectively.

"While IT/ITeS remains the main driver, the growing presence of BFSI and manufacturing firms signals a healthy diversification in the GCC ecosystem," Jain added.

As of the end of 2024, India hosted over 1,700 operational GCCs across its major cities, employing between 1.7 and 1.8 million professionals and valued at approximately USD 52 billion. With the current momentum, ANAROCK estimates the number of GCCs will rise to over 1,900 by the end of 2025, with a market value between USD 60–70 billion. Looking ahead, India could see 2,200 to 2,300 GCCs by 2030, potentially employing up to 2.8 million people and generating a market value of USD 100–110 billion.

Bengaluru's strong performance reinforces its strategic role in India's global services landscape. While Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities like Kochi, Coimbatore and Ahmedabad are emerging as alternatives, Bengaluru remains the preferred location for both new entrants and expanding global players.

The city's gross leasing by GCCs rose from 2.82 million sq. ft. in Q1 2024 to 3.3 million sq. ft. in Q1 2025, reaffirming its leadership. Delhi-NCR posted a remarkable jump from 0.49 million sq. ft. to 1.91 million sq. ft., while Chennai, which had no GCC leasing activity in Q1 2024, recorded a robust 1.22 million sq. ft. this year.

Other key cities saw varied performance. Mumbai and Pune recorded 0.6 million sq. ft. and 0.45 million sq. ft., respectively. Hyderabad experienced a drop, from 1.22 million sq. ft. to 0.82 million sq. ft., and Kolkata entered the segment with 0.05 million sq. ft. of leasing in Q1 2025. **BMB**

# Booming demand for prime residential plots in North B'luru

North Bengaluru is witnessing a significant surge in demand for residential sites, driven by its strategic location, proximity to key infrastructure, and availability of modern amenities. Over the past few years, this region has transformed into one of the most sought-after residential hubs for homebuyers and investors alike.

One of the biggest advantages of North Bengaluru is its proximity to Kempegowda International Airport, located just about 30 kilometres away. This connectivity makes it a preferred choice for frequent travellers, IT professionals, and business owners. "I chose a site in North Bengaluru because the airport is just a short drive away. It saves me time and makes travel hassle-free," says Ramesh Kumar, a software engineer and recent buyer.

The region also boasts several upcoming townships and well-developed residential localities that offer a blend of peaceful living and urban convenience.

Many layouts feature wide roads, proper street lighting, and landscaped parks, enhancing the overall quality of life.

"The infrastructure here is impressive. The presence of proper roads, streetlights, and parks makes it a great place to build a home for my family," says Anjali Menon, a young entrepreneur who recently purchased a plot.

Buyers are also drawn to the availability of essential utilities such as uninterrupted water supply, reliable electricity, and a functioning sewage system. These are crucial for daily life and often lacking in newer residential zones.

"We wanted a site with assured water and electricity facilities because it's crucial for everyday living. North Bengaluru ticks all these boxes," shares Vinay Shetty, a first-time buyer.

**–Prakash VL**

# Smart plots, smarter prices: Live big in Nelamangala

Affordable residential plots with a host of modern amenities are now available in Nelamangala, making it an attractive option for homebuyers seeking value without compromising on quality. Situated close to the Tumakuru Highway, this area offers excellent connectivity to Bengaluru and neighbouring regions, ensuring ease of commute for residents.

The plots come with well-laid, asphalted roads that ensure smooth and dust-free access throughout the year. This quality infrastructure not only enhances day-to-day convenience but also boosts the appeal and long-term value of the neighbourhood.

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Each site is equipped with a dedicated water supply system, offering both borewell and Panchayat water sources to ensure uninterrupted access, even during high-demand periods. Greenery and environmental sustainability are key priorities in the layout. Trees have been planted with protective guards, promoting a greener, more pleasant atmosphere while helping improve air quality and aesthetic value. **BMB**

# Overflowing manholes create health issues on Hutchins Road

## Despite years of complaints, BWSSB's failure to provide a lasting fix to sewage overflows puts Cooke Town residents at continued health risk and inconvenience

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Residents of Hutchins Road in Cooke Town have been facing a lot of problems due to overflow of dirty water from the manholes on the road which results in an unhygienic atmosphere and inconvenience and nuisance for the hapless residents who have been running pillar to post seeking a solution on a permanent basis. The residents said the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) engineers have been attending to the problem on a temporary basis but not taking measures to end this menace on a permanent basis.

The delay and apathy in fixing the problem have compelled the residents to write a letter to the BWSSB Chairman on May 21 narrating how they have been suffering whenever it rains heavily or moderate rain due to overflow of dirty water from the manholes on Hutchins Road. "Despite repeated interventions from the BWSSB jetting service, which only provides a temporary fix, the problem recurs with every downpour. It is our firm belief that the sewage line along Hutchins Road, from Davis Road Junction to the Railway Bridge, requires immediate desilting, or preferably, a complete overhaul with larger-diameter pipes to handle the increased load of sewage," the letter read.

The residents, in the letter, stated that the sewage overflows from a manhole on the main road which is not only affecting their streets but also their apartment complexes, flooding the parking area, polluting sumps and endangering their health.Speaking with Bangalore Mirror, R Albert, Founder Member of Cooke Town Resident Association, said the residents have been facing a lot of problems due to overflow of manholes during the monsoon. "We have complained to the authorities concerned including BWSSB and the BBMP. The BWSSB engineer visited the spot and assured to fix the problem but the BBMP engineers failed to visit the spot.

Dirty water flooding one of the building premises on Hutchins Road

Expressing the concern about the overflowing of dirty water, Lorraine Fernandez, a resident of Cooke Town, said the residents have a peculiar problem whenever it rains. "We have a peculiar problem on Hutchins Road, one of the main arterial roads in Cooke Town. "Whenever it rains, a huge flow of dirty water enters the compounds and apartment premises causing an unhygienic atmosphere which is a health hazard. It is not a new phenomenon. It has been happening for more than a decade. The BWSSB engineers have used jetting machines to clear manholes and dug up the road but could not fix the problem. The adjacent storm water drain is encroached thus preventing the flow of rainwater. This problem needs to be addressed by multiple departments scientifically," said Fernandez.

Demanding the authorities concerned to find a permanent solution to the manhole menace, Prasun Banerjee, a resident, said Hutchins Road gets flooded with dirty water due to the manhole problem.

> **"We have complained to both BWSSB and BBMP. While the BWSSB engineer visited the spot and assured a fix, BBMP engineers didn't even show up**
>
> – R Albert, Founder Member, Cooke Town Resident Association

However, BWSSB assistant engineer Mallappa said that he has already visited the spot and attended to the problem. "I found a few apartment complexes connecting rainwater harvesting pipes to the UGD pipes thus causing excess load of water on the UGD pipes whenever it rains. I have advised such apartment complexes to disconnect rainwater harvesting pipes. If they fail to do so within a week, I will issue notices to those responsible for connecting rainwater harvesting pipes," the BWSSB assistant engineer said.

# Residents of Marappa Layout demand action on waterlogging

## Despite repeated complaints to ward engineers, waterlogging persists outside one house, highlighting authorities' failure to address monsoon flooding effectively

| Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com

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Residents of Marappa Layout, especially those residing on 5th Cross, have been struggling a lot whenever it rains heavily in and around Vidyaranyapura in North Bengaluru. They said that Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) engineers, now Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) engineers, did nothing to mitigate their monsoon-related woes all these years.

Shashank, a resident on 5th Cross, Marappa Layout, said that he has been running pillar to post for more than a decade seeking a permanent solution to waterlogging in front of his house but in vain. "I have complained to the ward assistant executive engineer and executive engineer to take measures to prevent waterlogging and overflowing of drain water into my house. The authorities did nothing except giving false assurances", Shashank said.

He has complained that assistant executive engineers and the executive engineer have not bothered to fix this problem. "I am fed up with the BBMP, now Greater Bengaluru Authority, employees who expect money for cleaning the road and footpath. The rampant corruption and apathy of the authorities compelled me to write a letter to the authorities expressing concern over frequent waterlogging and flooding of my home whenever it rains heavily. I made it clear to the authorities that they cannot expect money from me for draining water and cleaning the road and the footpath in front of my house. I got the acknowledgement from the authorities", he said.

Expressing disgust and shock over the negligence of authorities in fixing waterlogging on the 5th Cross, Kamalamma G, a resident, said that she has also complained to the assistant executive engineer but no solution yet. "The assistant executive engineer and the executive engineer have failed to fix this problem. Shashank's house is worst affected as it is situated at the end of the street. My house also gets flooded whenever it rains heavily. I appeal to the assistant executive engineer to facilitate no waterlogging here in future", she said.

Flood water inside a house

Meanwhile, Vidyaranyapura ward assistant executive engineer Veeresh has confirmed receiving the letter from Shashank. "No one has complained about waterlogging or flooding on 5th Cross of Marappa Layout all these years. I have taken measures to fix waterlogging problems in other localities of Vidyaranyapura. If Shashank provides me with the proof of waterlogging or flooding, I will take measures to fix the problem", said the assistant executive engineer.

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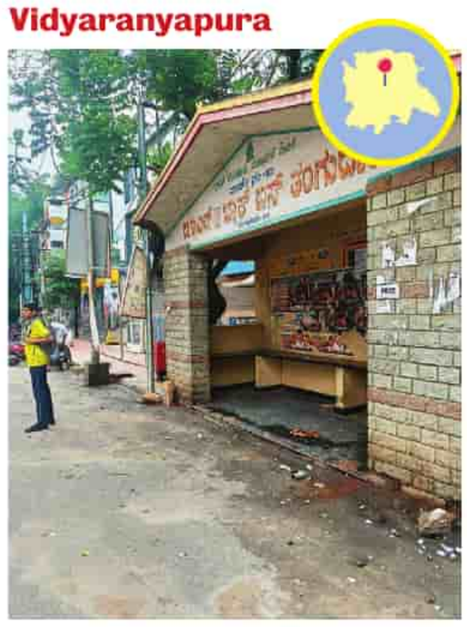
### ◎ Neglected shelter

**Vidyaranyapura**



At BEL 3rd Block in Vidyaranyapura, commuters are left standing in the open as the local bus stop remains neglected and poorly maintained

### ◎ Waste zone

**Basavanagudi**

Garbage has gone uncleared for two consecutive days on a mandir road, behind Lalbagh Metro Station in Basavanagudi — a recurring civic nuisance for residents.

### ◎ Road danger

**Shantivana**

The condition of Shantivana Main Road is rapidly worsening, causing serious inconvenience to both daily commuters and local residents.

# State bypasses Centre nod

## Govt approves district's new identity as Bengaluru South, under Karnataka Land Revenue Act; officials say existing records remain valid, while new documents reflect updated designation

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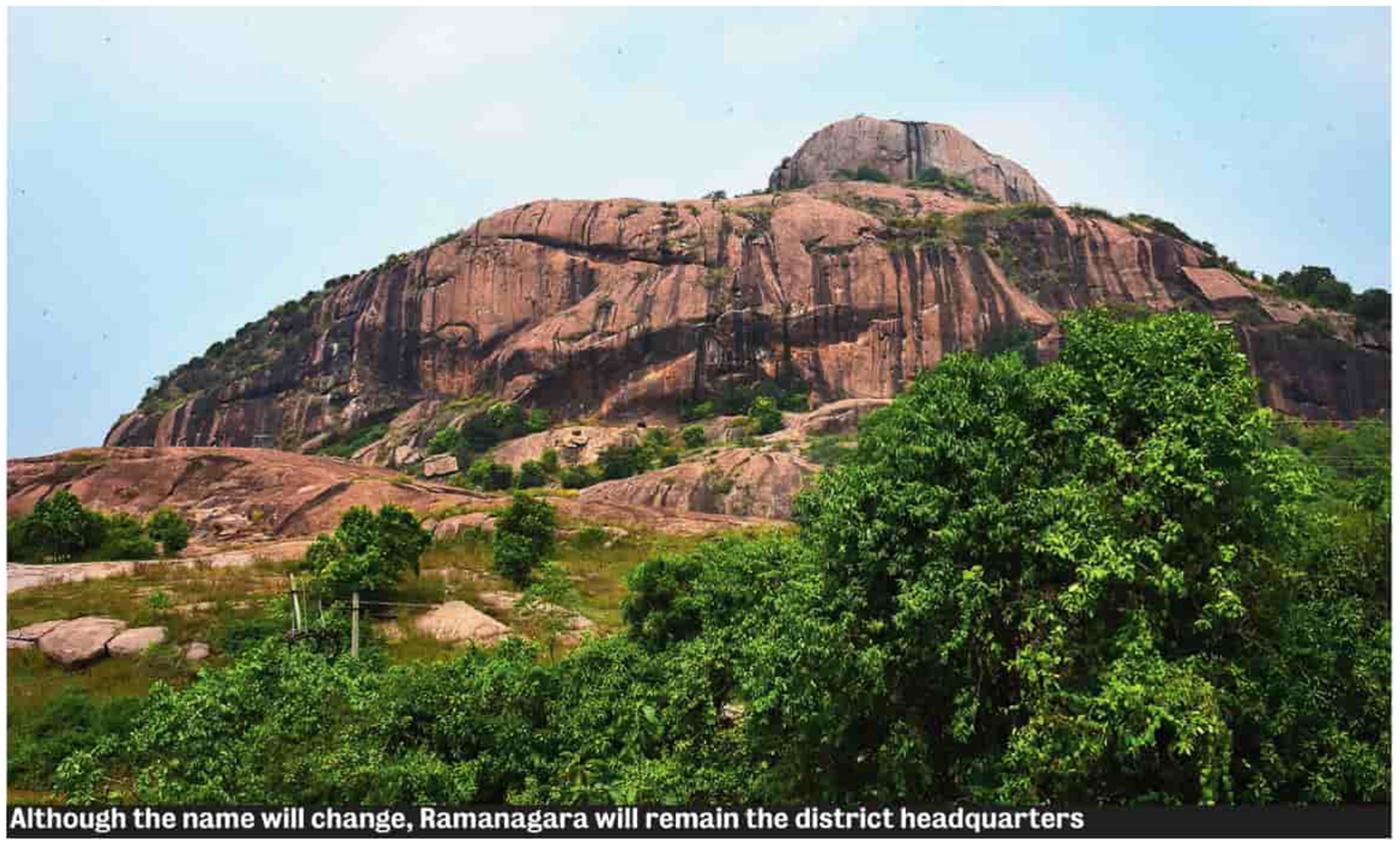
Although the name will change, Ramanagara will remain the district headquarters

With the State Government officially approving the renaming of Ramanagara as Bengaluru South district, it has effectively fired another salvo at the Centre, which had earlier rejected the proposal. Undeterred, the State proceeded with the move, asserting that it does not require the Centre's approval for such decisions.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday asserted that the state government has full authority to rename Ramanagara district as Bengaluru South District. "The decision to rename Ramanagara has been taken after carefully considering public opinion in the region. It is not a unilateral decision, but one that reflects the aspirations of the people residing there."

This statement comes amid political controversy surrounding the Cabinet's recent approval to rename Ramanagara, a district that was officially carved out in 2007. Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar has strongly backed the renaming, arguing that attaching the Bengaluru brand would enhance the district's development and recognition.

The renaming move has drawn mixed reactions across political lines, especially from the Janata Dal (Secular) and Bharatiya Janata Party leaders who have criticised the government's intent. However, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah stood firm, emphasising that under the Karnataka Land Revenue Act, the state holds the power to create, dissolve, or rename districts without requiring the Centre's approval. "The state is well within its legal rights. In fact, even when Ramanagara was first declared a district, there was no need for central permission. This time, too, there is no procedural violation," he clarified. The official government notification regarding the name change was issued on Friday.

> **There is no confusion here. Old records with remain valid. Only new documents will carry with name Bengaluru South**
> –HK Patil, minister

DK Shivakumar, who hails from Ramanagara, had long advocated for this renaming, arguing that the inclusion of the 'Bengaluru' brand would enhance the district's developmental prospects. While the name will change, Ramanagara will continue to function as the district headquarters. This marks a symbolic and administrative shift since the district was carved out of Bengaluru Rural in 2007, a move originally announced by then Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy.

### Decade-long aspiration

Sources indicate that Shivakumar had been indirectly expressing dissatisfaction with the separate identity of Ramanagara district since its inception. In July 2024, he led a delegation of elected representatives from the region—including Ramanagara, Channapatna, Magadi, Kanakapura, and Harohalli—to meet with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, formally submitting the renaming proposal. This marks the second attempt by Shivakumar to push the renaming through the cabinet, with the current government now endorsing his vision.

### Legal standpoint

Citing the Allahabad–Prayagraj renaming by the Uttar Pradesh government in 2018, officials suggest that the state is well within its rights to rename districts. According to the Karnataka Land Revenue Act, 1964 (Section 5(4)), the state government has exclusive authority over the creation, modification, and naming of zones, taluks, and districts. Central government approval is not mandatory. While the Home Ministry's 1953 directive requires states to consult the Centre when renaming villages, towns, or railway stations, the naming of districts is a state subject.

### Signboards updated

The nameplate outside the Ramanagara Revenue Office already reads Bengaluru South District. This has led to heightened anticipation among locals. Minister HK Patil reassured the public that there's no need to rush to government offices to change existing documents. "There is no confusion here. Old records will remain valid. Only new documents will carry the name Bengaluru South," he said.

# Court upholds police bribery conviction

The high court has sustained the conviction and punishment of MK Manjanna, a head constable at Bagalagunte police station, who was apprehended in 2017 for accepting Rs 10,000 as bribe from a complainant to close a criminal case.

The trial court's sentence of four years' imprisonment and Rs 50,000 fine was upheld. Despite minor inconsistencies, the high court noted that crucial elements of demand and acceptance of a bribe were adequately proven, supporting the trial court's decision.

On July 15, 2017, Manjanna was caught allegedly receiving money from complainant Raja alias Andrews to close a pending criminal case. The anti-corruption bureau (ACB) subsequently investigated and filed the chargesheet.

On September 29, 2021, the special court found Manjanna guilty, imposing three years' rigorous imprisonment with Rs 50,000 fine under Section 8 of the Prevention of Corruption (PC) Act, and four years with Rs 50,000 fine under Sections 13(1)(d) read with 13(2).

Manjanna contested the verdict, stating no official work was pending with the complainant and claimed the recovery of phenolphthalein-soaked money alone did not constitute an offence. He argued that Sections 7 and 13 were not met as demand and acceptance were absent. Justice HP Sandesh confirmed the presence of demand and acceptance. —BMB

IN HIGH COURT

# HC clears job hurdle

A 38-year-old state government worker, who was previously denied a promotion based on medical grounds, has received favourable relief from the high court. The court has instructed KPTCL/Bescom to appoint him as an assistant accounts officer, acknowledging that his locomotor disability does not impede his ability to perform lighter duties.

Chief Justice NV Anjaria and Justice KV Aravind, forming a division bench, ordered that SB Anil Kumar be appointed within eight weeks. The bench noted, "The assessment of suitability must not be based solely on a medical certificate, but also on functional assessment of the candidate."

Anil Kumar, who has served as an assistant for a decade, was denied the AAO position due to the revised 2016 guidelines. He disclosed having a locomotor disability exceeding 75%, affecting his legs and arms. Following a single bench's dismissal, he proceeded with a writ appeal.

The division bench ruled Kumar eligible for the assistant accounts officer role under disability reservation. They directed authorities to include him in the final selection list, issue appointment orders and establish seniority within eight weeks, granting notional seniority from September 8, 2016. Despite his disability percentage and examination qualification, he was excluded from the provisional selection list, with authorities stating no suitable PwD candidates were available. —BMB

IN BRIEF

# 9-month-old tests Covid positive

A nine-month-old baby boy tested positive for Covid-19 in Bengaluru, health department officials said on Friday.

Harsh Gupta, Principal Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department, said the baby tested positive via a Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) on May 22.

"The patient is stable and currently admitted to Vani Vilas Hospital in Kalasipalya, Bengaluru," he said. According to health department sources, the baby is from Hoskote in Bengaluru Rural district and was initially admitted to a private hospital.

On May 21, Karnataka Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao confirmed that the state had reported 16 active Covid-19 cases. On May 19, the total number of Covid-19 cases in India stood at 257.

### Mask advisory

With a gradual rise in Covid-19 cases reported over the past 20 days in Karnataka, primarily in Bengaluru, where 32 of the 35 active cases have been recorded, the state health authorities have advised the public to remain cautious. While no fatalities have occurred, the Health Department stresses the importance of proactive compliance with COVID-19 Appropriate Behaviour (CAB) to prevent further spread.

As a precaution, people, especially vulnerable groups such as pregnant women, children, those with weakened immune systems, and individuals with co-morbidities, are strongly advised to wear face masks when visiting crowded or enclosed places. Maintaining hand hygiene, including regular handwashing and the use of hand sanitisers, is also encouraged. —PTI

# Actor Darshan faces wildlife charges

A local court in T Narasipura issued summons on Friday to Kannada actor Darshan and his wife Vijayalaxmi, directing them to appear before the court in connection with the illegal possession of four bar-headed geese at their farmhouse.

The bar-headed goose is a rare migratory bird native to the Middle East. The court has ordered Darshan, his wife Vijayalaxmi, and their farmhouse manager to appear in person on July 4. Forest authorities discovered the prohibited birds at Darshan's farm house at Kempaiahna Hundi near Mysuru city. In 2023, following the viral video of Darshan with birds, a raid was conducted at the actor's farmhouse. It led to the seizure of four bar-headed geese. The Forest Department alleged that Darshan was in illegal possession of the birds. A case was registered, and a charge sheet was submitted to the court against Darshan and others. There have also been reports of other incidents linked to the farmhouse, including the death of Darshan's manager Sridhar. —IANS

# How crude firearms find their way to B'luru

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In 2024, Vidyanand Sahani and Premkumar Sahani, brothers from Bihar, were arrested in Bengaluru with two kattas and four live rounds. Vidyanand had prior cases of arms smuggling and robbery in Bihar. Both confessed to sourcing the weapons from their home state with plans to sell them in the city.

In 2021, another major bust occurred in Ashok Nagar. Four individuals, Sonu Kumar, Sunil Kumar, Irfan Imtiyaz, and Murali Vinod, were caught with illegal firearms allegedly supplied by Lutan Singh, a dealer based in Sultanganj, Bihar. That year alone, police reported at least six such arms trafficking cases, indicating how rooted the racket is.

## Gun trail

Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, especially areas like Munger and Sultanganj, have long been hotspots for illegal firearm production. Kattas made here are cheap, selling for as low as 5,000. They're built for quick jobs, easy to dump, and nearly impossible to trace. Sources from the police department revealed that these weapons are meant for short use. These are typically single-shot pistols, designed for limited use. After a few discharges, the barrel often becomes damaged, rendering the weapon unusable and difficult to trace.

This use-and-dispose model gives gangs a safety net. The disposable nature of kattas poses significant challenges for law enforcement. Without the recovery of the weapon, establishing a direct link between the accused and the crime becomes difficult, often leading to weaker cases in court. This lack of concrete evidence can result in accused individuals obtaining bail or even acquittal due to insufficient proof.

## The supply chain

Previous cases have revealed that these weapons usually arrived in parts, hidden in courier parcels, bus luggage, or train compartments. Once assembled in the city, they're sold to gang members involved in extortion, intimidation, and targeted killings. However, The Organised Crime Wing (OCW) of the City Police has been effective in monitoring and controlling the city's underworld activities. Compared to other cities like Mumbai, which has a long-standing history of organised crime involving extensive use of firearms, Bengaluru has maintained relatively lower levels of gun-related violence.

# Going full tank after rain

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

31,505 million litres. Several zones such as Mahadevapura and Yelahanka reported widespread drying, and officials noted that nearly 3 lakh borewells had run dry due to the failing water table and lack of rainfall in pre-summer months.

BBMP's Special Commissioner (Forest, Environment, and Climate Change Department) Preeti Gehlot said, "The total storage capacity of lakes under BBMP is 3,251.4 million litres. In April 2025, the total water stored in these lakes had dropped to 1,059.5 million litres, with only three lakes being completely full. Around 63 lakes were nearly dry at that time. However, thanks to the recent week-long rainfall, a total of 2,605.6 million litres of water has been stored in the lakes. This is a significant increase compared to April 2025. As of now, 63 lakes within the BBMP area are fully filled."

Environmentalists had sounded the alarm over inadequate lake desilting and poor rainwater harvesting, which they said were critical factors in the water crisis. Some areas, such as RR Nagar and Dasarahalli, had over a third of their lakes dried up. Even zones like Bommanahalli, with the highest number of lakes, were facing rapid depletion, making the upcoming monsoon a critical lifeline for the city.

The early May showers have begun to reverse this trend. The BBMP's latest zonal analysis of lake water storage shows a widespread improvement, with 63 lakes now reported to be storing water beyond their FTL, and 37 lakes between 75%-100% capacity. Notably, zones such as Mahadevapura and RR Nagar have shown strong recovery. Mahadevapura, which had 19 dried lakes last month, now has 13 lakes surpassing full capacity and 17 nearing full. RR Nagar, which had only 393 million litres of water left in April, now boasts 16 lakes filled beyond 100% capacity.

According to BBMP data, in Bommanahalli zone, the most lake-dense area, 7 lakes are now overflowing, while 15 more are at 75%-100%, showing significant improvement across its 45 lakes. Yelahanka, which had 12 dried-up lakes last month, now reports 19 lakes above full tank level. Even in the smaller East and South zones, water levels have risen; both now report multiple lakes either near or over capacity. The West zone, with just two lakes, still lags slightly behind, but both lakes now have more than 50% water levels, up from near-depleted conditions.

**BBMP data shows that, in Bommanahalli zone, the most lake-dense area, 7 lakes are now overflowing, while 15 more are at 75%-100%, showing big improvement across its 45 lakes**

Despite these improvements, officials caution that the overall average still sits at 40%, and sustained rainfall will be necessary through the season to fully revive all 183 lakes. "The rains have brought temporary relief, but long-term solutions must include comprehensive desilting, lake interlinking, and mandatory rainwater harvesting," a BBMP official said.

The turnaround in lake storage offers a ray of hope for a city that was on the verge of a water emergency. However, experts and civic officials agree that this should be a wake-up call for better water management. With the monsoon gaining momentum, the next few weeks will be crucial in securing Bengaluru's water future — not just for this season, but for years to come.

# Your Connect

## tender & notices

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## personal

### CHANGE OF NAME

**I,** Mamtha Bai R alias Mamtha Bai B, W/o D.Uttam Chand, residing at Vikranth Manor, #99/7, 7th 'A' Cross, 2nd Block, 3rd Stage, Basaveshwaranagar, Bengaluru-560079, have changed my name to MAMTHA, vide affidavit dt: 22/05/2025 before notary Ramachandrappa.C, B.lore.

**I,** SKANDA RAJESH S/o Dr. Rajesh Radhakrishnan and Dr Shruthi Tara, Residing at Lakshmi Nivas, Yakkara Road, Palakkad Kerala-678014, And A Holder of Indian Passport No U6364424 issued at Cochin hereby change my name as SKANDAPOORVAJA RAJESH, As recorded in my Aadhar, 10, 12th & Degree Marks List sworn before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Bangalore

**I,** MOHAMMAD MUDASSIR KHAN, R/a.#2353/1,10th Crs, AMC Rd, Khushalnagar, KG Halli, Bangalore-45. I, have changed my name to MOHAMMED MUDASSIR KHAN, Vide affidavit, dated 23.05.2025 Sworn before Notary Meer Hussain Bangalore

I Manjunatha Hanumanahalli Sundreshan S/O, Sundreshan Hanumanahalli Marigowda R/o No 63/2 Vivekananda Road 2nd Cross Vidyanagara Hassan - 573202 have changed my name to Manjunath Hanumanahalli Sundreshan.

I Sonia Dilip W/o Nikhil Chowan Jain R/o No.12, 5th Floor, Flat no:54, Kalpatharu Apartment, Race course Road , Bangalore-560001 have changed my name to Sonia Chowan Jain vide Affidavit Dtd.02/05/2025, Sworn before notary Fahim Unnisa

**I,** SAHEERA BANU, R/a.#2/3, Quadria Manzil,2nd Main,7th Cross, Byrappa Layout, Bangalore-45. I, have Changed my name to SAHERA BANU, Vide affidavit, dated 23/05/2025 Sworn before Notary: Meer Hussain. Bangalore

**I,** Jayagopala Gowda Muniswamappa Narayana Gowda S/o Muniswamappa Narayana Gowda # No 1, Thanisandra Village, B'luru 560045 have changed my name to Jayagopal Gowda Muniswa - mappanarayanagowda

I Chinmay Subramanya Kulkarni S/O, Shankar Subramanya R/o No 1193 1st Main 2nd Block Bel Layout Vidyaranyapura Bengaluru - 560097 have changed my name to Chinmay Subramanya.

**I,** Hareesha Hennur Nanjundappa S/o Nanjundappa R/o No 76,Kurki Village, Narasapura Post, Kolar 563133 KA have changed my name to Harish Hennur Nanjundappa for all purposes.

**I,** Usha Jayagopal Gowda W/o Jayagopal Gowda.M R/o No 1, Thanisandra Village,Arabic College Nagar Post, B'luru 560045 have changed my name to Usha Narayanagowda For All Purposes.

**I,** Rajasekaran Swamynathan, residing at #A-301, Gina Shalom Apartments, Old Madras Road, Bhattarahalli, KR Puram, Bengaluru - 560049, have Changed my name to Rajasekaran Swamynadhan.

**I,** Jeevanlata Salunke W/o Rakesh M Jadhav R/o #89,15th Block H C Police Quarters Jakkasandra Kormangala,1st Block B'lore-560034 have changed my name to Jeevan latha Rakesh Jadhav.

**I,** Divya Sarvanan W/o Karthik Anand R/o #26,5th Cross, Muninagappa layout Near Prakash Apt, kaval Byrasandra B'luru-560032 have changed my name to Divya Karthik

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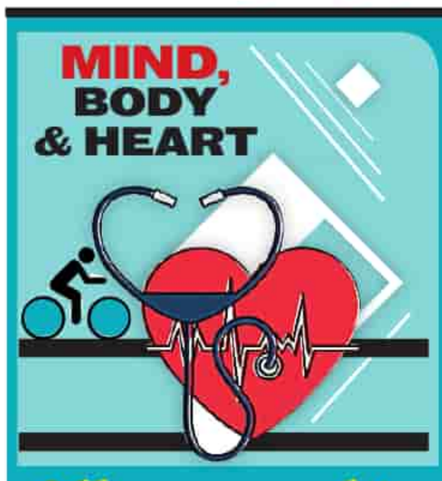



## All you need to know about...

*Postpartum Hair Fall*

**Why does it happen**
During pregnancy, elevated estrogen levels keep your hair in the growth phase for longer, so you shed less than usual. After childbirth, your hormone levels drop suddenly. This causes many hair follicles to shift into the resting (telogen) phase all at once, leading to noticeable shedding.

**What you can do**
While you can't stop postpartum hair fall overnight, you can take steps to reduce the severity and support healthy regrowth. Dr Nitu shares the following tips:

**Be gentle with your hair**
Avoid tight ponytails, heat styling, or chemical treatments. Use a wide-toothed comb and let your hair air dry whenever possible.

**Focus on nutrition and hydration**
Eat a well-balanced diet rich in iron, protein, omega-3 fatty acids, zinc, and essential vitamins like A, C, D, E, and B-complex. Stay well-hydrated throughout the day.

**Check for deficiencies**
Iron, Vitamin B12, Vitamin D3, and thyroid issues can all contribute to hair loss. If shedding seems excessive or prolonged, consult your doctor and get tested.

**Manage stress**
Engage in calming practices like yoga, meditation, deep breathing, or even light strength training. Prioritising sleep—no matter how tough—can also support hormonal balance.

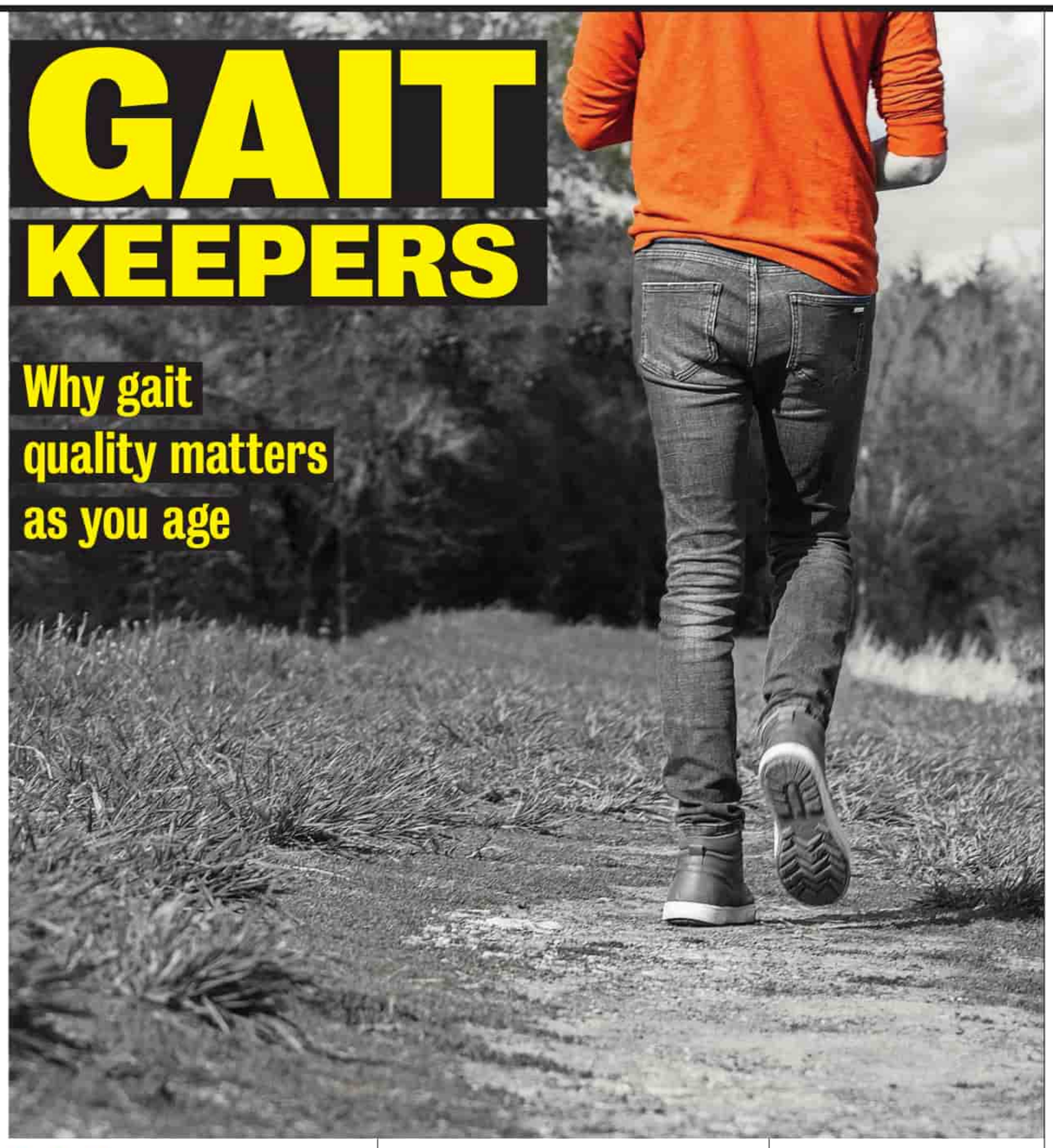
**Explore medical treatments (under supervision)**
Supplements such as biotin, collagen, folic acid, or postnatal multivitamins may be helpful, along with topical serums. Always consult a doctor before starting any treatment.

**Give it time**
Postpartum hair fall resolves on its own in most cases. What's falling out isn't forever. It's just hair that was retained during pregnancy finally shedding. Understanding that this is part of your body's natural rebalancing process can bring much-needed peace of mind during an emotionally and physically demanding phase of life.

—Trichologist Dr Nitu for Femina

# GAIT KEEPERS

## Why gait quality matters as you age



Walking is one of the most important things we do for our quality of life. In fact, research shows it contributes more than any other physical activity to how well we live day to day. Yet one in three people over the age of 60 report having some difficulty walking.

As we age, gradual changes in our bodies and health can alter how we walk, often without us realising. But the way we walk, known as our gait pattern, matters more than we might think. Poor gait doesn't just make walking harder and more tiring; it can lead to joint strain, instability, and a greater risk of falls.

Think of your gait like a heart rhythm. Just as an electrocardiogram (ECG) shows whether your heart is functioning properly, your gait also has a rhythm. When that rhythm is off, it may be one of the earliest signs that you're not ageing as well as you could be.

Thanks to new technology, we can now measure gait quality more easily and precisely. One promising tool is the Heel2Toe wearable sensor. This small device attaches to your shoe and tracks the movement of your ankle as you walk, capturing your gait cycle in real time.

A healthy step begins with a strong heel strike. Your weight then rolls across the sole of your foot, ending with a push-off from the toes. As your foot lifts, it swings forward cleanly – no dragging or scuffing. This smooth sequence creates a rhythm in your ankle movements, one that, when consistent, resembles a kind of "walking ECG".

But over time, many people unconsciously adopt less efficient movement patterns. These altered gaits may feel normal, but they're often unstable, tiring or unsafe.

Poor gait reduces confidence, increases fall risk, and can discourage people from walking at all. And the less we walk, the weaker our muscles become – making the problem worse. It's a vicious cycle.

### Relearning to walk well

The good news is that we can retrain our gait.

The Heel2Toe sensor doesn't just monitor your movements – it also encourages better walking. When it detects a good step (one that begins with a strong heel strike), it delivers an audio cue as positive feedback. Over time, these cues help you rediscover a stronger, steadier walking pattern. Good gait becomes your new normal. Tools like Heel2Toe help people tune in to their body's signals and make sustainable progress.

The goal isn't just to move more – it's to move better.

Of course, being physically active is only one aspect of what it means to live well as we grow older.

To get a more complete picture of healthy ageing researchers have developed a tool that measures how often older adults experience key aspects of wellbeing. This tool – the Opal measure (Older Persons for Active Living) – goes beyond tracking what people do. It asks how they feel about their lives.

Opal can help people understand their own wellbeing and it offers policymakers and communities a way to evaluate how well their services support older citizens – not just physically, but socially and emotionally too.

For people, this means that even small improvements, like better gait, can lead to meaningful changes in how you feel: more confident, more mobile and more independent.

For communities, it's a reminder that promoting physical activity is important – but not enough. We also need programs, spaces and services that foster connection, purpose, creativity and joy.

### What does 'active living' really mean?

In a 2024 international study, older adults in Canada, UK, US and the Netherlands shared what "active living" means to them – across four languages and cultural contexts.

They identified 17 distinct "ways of being" that contribute to feeling active. Physical health was just one part. Others included feeling: confident, connected, creative, energised, encouraged, engaged, happy, mentally healthy, independent, interested, mentally sharp, motivated, resilient and self-sufficient.

In other words, active living isn't just about taking (or counting) steps, it's about how you feel while taking them.

Ageing is inevitable. But ageing well? That's something we can shape – step by step.

*(By Helen Dawes, University of Exeter and Nancy E Mayo, McGill University, The Conversation)*

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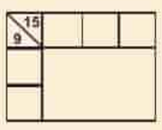
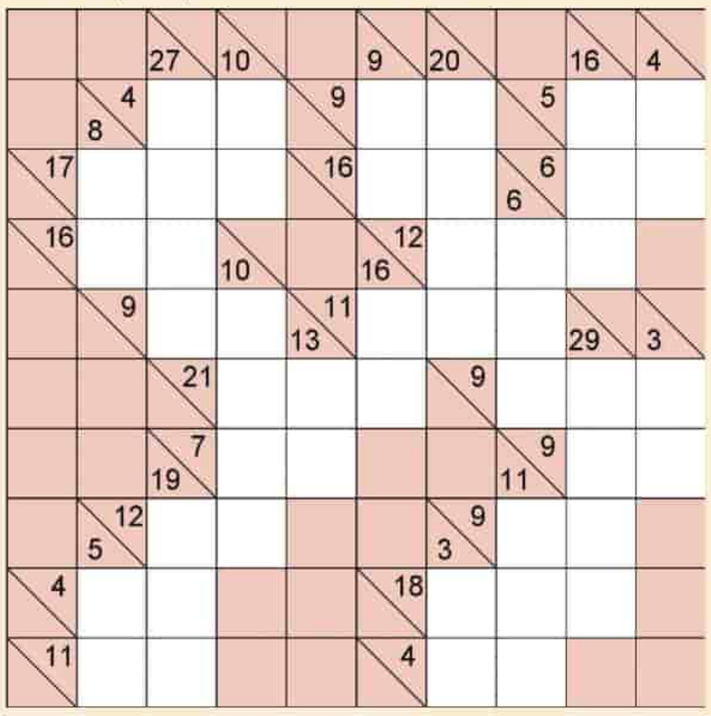
@BangaloreMirror


## Kakuro

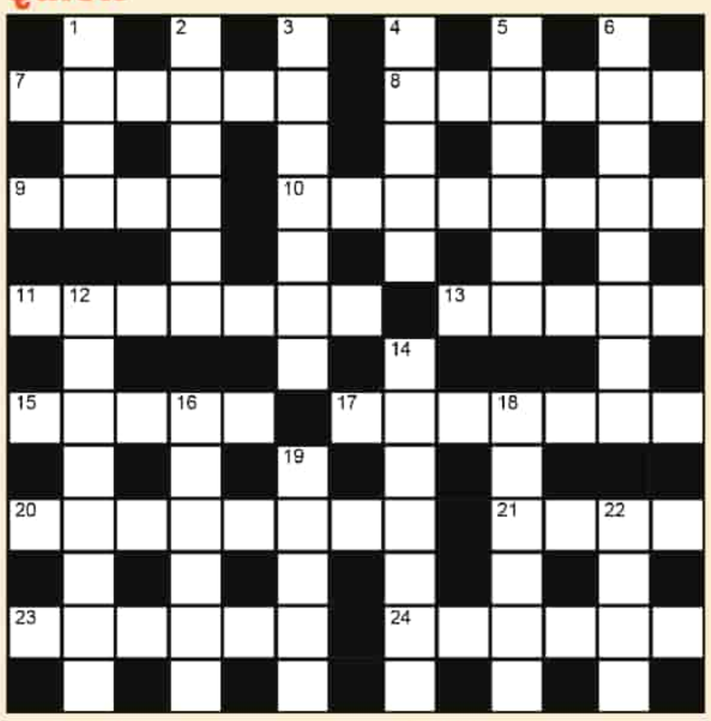
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



## Quick



**ACROSS**

7 A type of sailing vessel (6)
8 Relating to the backbone (6)
9 Columbus' ship (4)
10 Over-confident (8)
11 Fine manor estate (7)
13 Vacuous (5)
15 Japanese dish (5)
17 Keeps an eye on (7)
20 Risk takers (8)
21 Harrow rival (4)
23 Cheapen (6)
24 Piece of gold (6)

**DOWN**

1 Ex-Indian captain ___ Contractor (4)
2 Liken to (6)
3 Swordsmanship (7)
4 Analyse problem etc. in psychological manner (slang usage) (5)
5 Goes well together (4,2)
6 Sons and Lovers author D. H. ____ (8)
12 Imitates, mimics or copies (8)
14 Analysing a sentence (7)
16 Bangalore lake–"Blab he" anagram (6)
18 Ministers of the church (6)
19 Not as many (5)
22 Follow the orders (4)

## Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

**Today's CLUE: F EQUALS H**

YFR MOQZONOEVZER DN UVZ OM YFVY FR OM OZMOQZONO-EVZY VZG OM VBVAR DN OY.

### Linemaro

Would you touch me so I can tell my friends an angel touched me?

### Mindchow

Fear is the mother of morality

### Joke of the day

We pay for the mistakes of our ancestors, and it seems only fair that they should leave us the money to pay with

## Loop

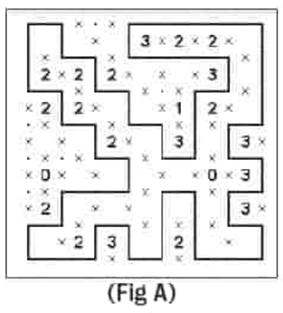
**Rules**

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

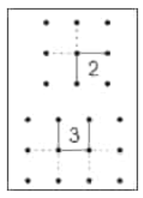
**How to begin:**

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

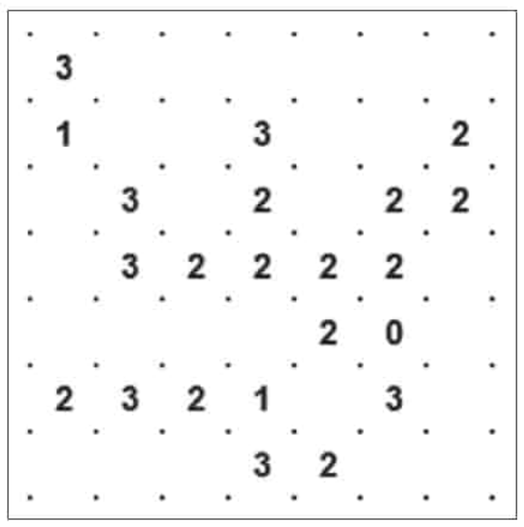
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



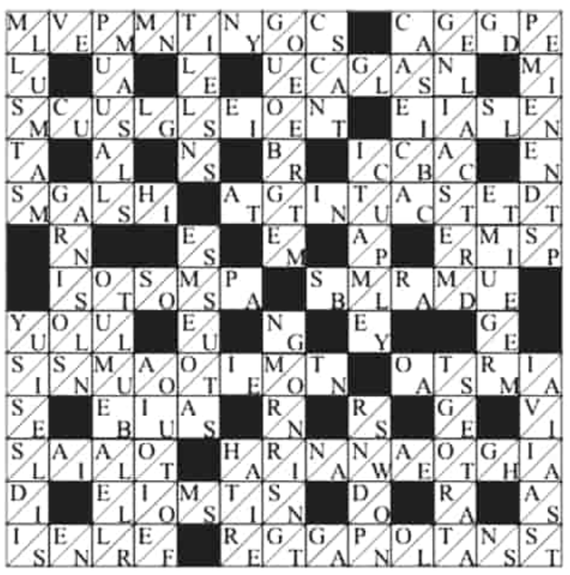
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



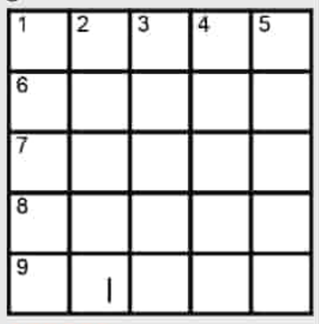
## Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

## Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



**ACROSS**

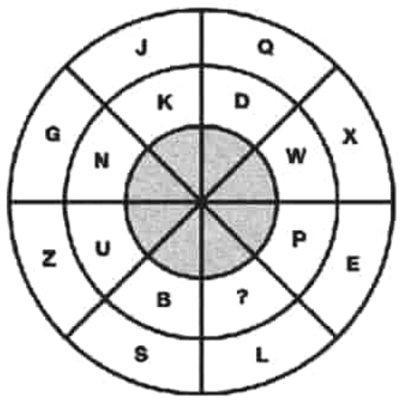
1 Rates; 6 Ether;
7 Stoop; 8 Gaits;
9 Sired

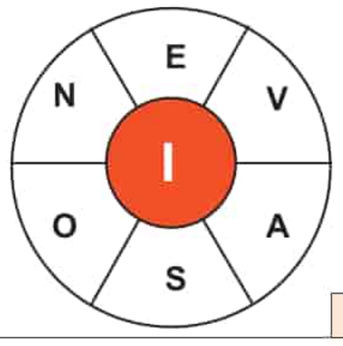
**DOWN**

1 At art; 2 His go;
3 Id Pet; 4 So ere;
5 Tress

## Mensapuzzle

Which letter replaces the question mark and completes the wheel?




## Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

**07** Average; **08** Good; **10** Outstanding

## SudokuChallenge

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | | | | 3 | | | | 6 |
| | | | 1 | | 7 | | | |
| 8 | | 7 | 6 | | 4 | 3 | | 1 |
| 5 | | 1 | | | | 8 | | 9 |
| | 2 | | | | | | 6 | |
| 3 | | 4 | | | | 1 | | 5 |
| 7 | | 3 | 2 | | 9 | 6 | | 8 |
| | | | 3 | | 6 | | | |
| 1 | | | | 7 | | | | 4 |

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

## Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

**Easy** = 15

2 2 4 7

**Medium** = 8

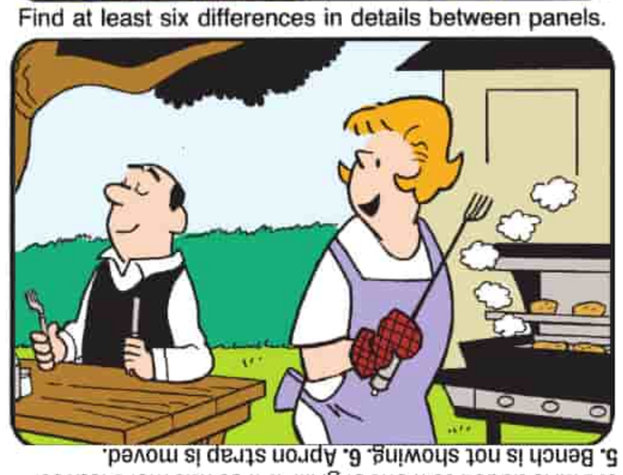
9 8 6 3

**Hard** = 52

2 6 8 5

## Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



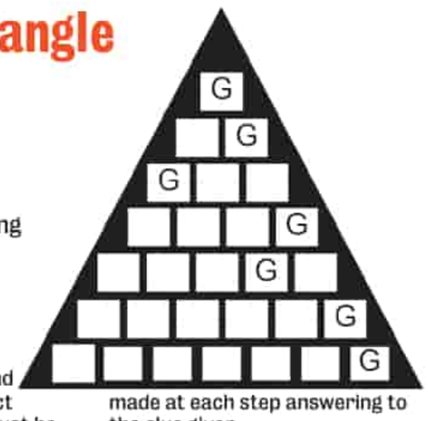
**Differences:** 1. Fork is different. 2. Mouth is open. 3. Dial is added to front of grill. 4. Tree has more leaves. 5. Bench is not showing. 6. Apron strap is moved.

## Riddler

Find an anagram for each word in Group A. Each anagram will answer one of the clues in Group B.
**Group A** 1. Earth, 2. Rosin, 3. Taxer, 4. Lease, 5. Darin, 6. Sharp, 7. Gofer
**Group B** A. Surplus, B. Golf clubs, C. Blacksmith's furnace, D. Stringed instruments, E. Empty the sink, F. Valentine's Day symbol, G. Painter's stand

## Alpha triangle

1 Gravity, symbol
2 Instagram abbr
3 US soldiers
4 Hum a tune
5 Offstage areas
6 Planting seeds
7 down: decelerating




Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.


DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

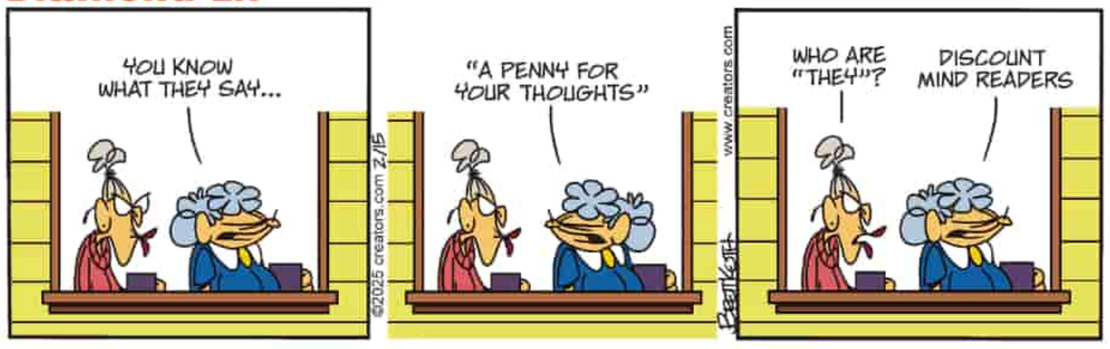
# COMICS

## Popeye

KIN I STILL SMACK ME EMENIES EVEN IF I YAM INVISIBLE?
OF COURSE, POPEYE!
YOUR BODY IS JUST AS SOLID AS IT WAS BEFORE I MADE YOU INVISIBLE!
GOOD!
SMACK!
8-27

## Bizarrotrip

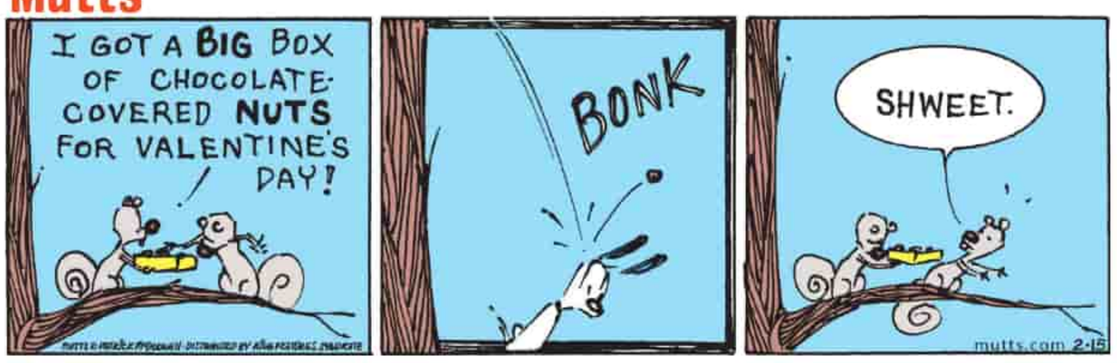
## Diamond Lil




## Hart of the city

## Crankshaft

## Mutts




# WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

**Aries** Mar 21 – Apr 20
High energy levels and optimism mark your day. You're feeling motivated, and your hard work is likely to bring you closer to your goals. An outing with friends or family could enhance your joy. Students may receive good academic news.

**Taurus** Apr 21 – May 20
The morning may feel stressful, but positivity returns by the afternoon. A rise in inner strength and self-confidence will lift your spirits. Exercise caution in financial, career, and educational matters. Avoid misunderstandings with your spouse—patience is essential. Lovebirds may consider a short trip.

**Gemini** May 21 – Jun 21
Be mindful of spending habits today, as they may impact your savings. Express yourself clearly and diplomatically at work and home. Avoid lending money or making major investments, particularly in real estate. Take responsibility seriously and avoid neglecting your duties.

**Cancer** Jun 22 – July 23
Social gatherings can help you strengthen both personal and professional networks, with long-term benefits. Those in creative fields like art, fashion, or glamour may discover new opportunities. Students are likely to succeed, and lovebirds will enjoy emotionally rewarding time together.

**Leo** Jul 24 – Aug 23
It's a busy but productive day. Despite a demanding workload, you'll find satisfaction in your efforts. Financial discipline keeps your expenses in check, and your calm demeanor fosters harmony at home. Encouraging family news could lift your mood further.

**Virgo** Aug 24 – Sep 23
Elders' blessings may boost your confidence today. Trust your instincts, especially in financial matters. A spiritual outing with family might bring peace of mind. Avoid arrogance to maintain harmony at home. Students may receive positive feedback due to their efforts and good fortune.

**Libra** Sep 24 – Oct 22
The day begins cheerfully, but negative thoughts may surface by the afternoon, affecting productivity. Arguments at home are possible—remain calm and composed. Avoid lending money, as recovery may be difficult. You might find yourself drawn to subjects like the occult or metaphysics.

**Scorpio** Oct 23 – Nov 22
Thanks to the Moon's blessings, you'll feel positive and romantic. Your emotional warmth strengthens harmony at home. At work, your patience and teamwork with colleagues and partners will be rewarded, leading to successful outcomes.

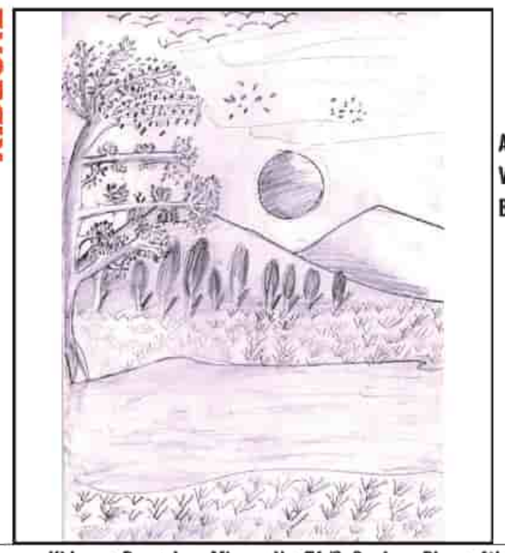
**Sagittarius** Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you're likely to manage expenses well, improving financial stability. Be attentive to your children's health. Singles might experience a surprise in love or marriage prospects. Those in travel, diplomacy, or logistics may have a particularly favorable day. Watch out for minor digestive issues.

**Capricorn** Dec 23 – Jan 20
Professional setbacks may test your patience and could result in frustration or arrogance. Avoid making major decisions related to investments or relationships. Couples and lovebirds should steer clear of conflict to maintain harmony. Students must stay disciplined and avoid shortcuts.

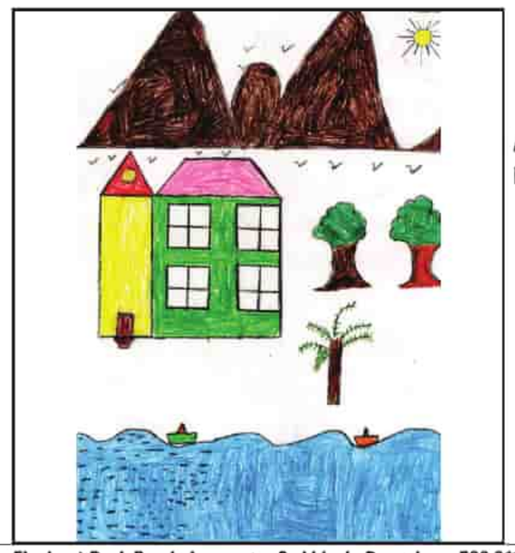
**Aquarius** Jan 21 – Feb 19
You may feel more sensitive and emotional today. Refrain from making investments, particularly in property or large assets. Pay attention to your parents' health. Work-related tasks may be delayed, so approach them with patience and clarity to avoid confusion.

**Pisces** Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today offers contentment and financial balance. You're likely to manage both income and expenditure effectively. Your network will support your plans, and siblings or subordinates will be particularly helpful. Consider visiting elders or a place of worship for inner peace.

## KIDZONE



Ananya Vastare, Bengaluru



A Pracheth Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

# SOLUTIONS

**SOLVE IN 1M**
200 - 28 x 6 + 24 =
200 - 168 + 24 = 56

**BULL'S EYE**
anise, envoi, EVASION, naive, noise, sine, vain, vein, vine, visa

**FAST FIVE**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | S | T | E | R |
| T | H | E | R | E |
| A | G | I | S | T |
| T | O | P | O | S |
| R | I | D | E | S |

**QUOTE UNCODE**
The significance of man is that he is insignificant and is aware of it.

**RIDDLER**
1. Heart (F), 2. Irons (B), 3. Extra (A), 4. Easel (G), 5. Drain (E), 6. Harps (D), 7. Forge (C)

**STRIKE OUT**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| S | C | U | L | L | I | O | N | | E | A | S | E |
| T | | L | | S | | R | | I | C | | | N |
| S | A | S | H | | A | G | I | T | A | T | E | D |
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| Y | O | U | | U | | G | | Y | | | E | |
| S | T | O | M | P | | B | L | A | D | E | | |
| E | | B | U | S | | R | | S | | E | | V |
| L | I | L | T | | H | I | A | W | A | T | H | A |
| I | N | M | O | T | I | O | N | | O | T | R | A |
| S | E | R | F | | E | G | G | P | L | A | N | T |
| D | | E | O | S | I | N | | O | | R | | S |

**MENSA PUZZLE**
1. Start with the outer top left segment, and move around the circle clockwise, then move in to the middle segments and move anticlockwise. Following this path, letters advance through the alphabet in steps of 7 letters at a time.

**QUICK**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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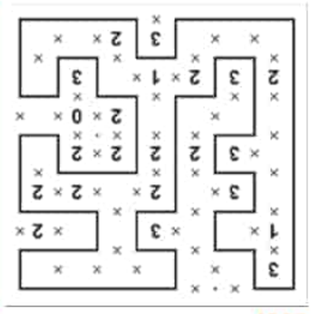
**SUDOKU**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 6 |
| 6 | 3 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 2 |
| 8 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 1 |
| 5 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 9 |
| 9 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 3 |
| 3 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 5 |
| 7 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 8 |
| 2 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 1 | 7 |
| 1 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

**ALPHA TRIANGLE**
G, Ig, Gis, Sing, Wings, Sowing, Slowing.

**GO FIGURE**
Easy
2 x 2 + 4 + 7 = 15
Medium
3 + 6 + 8 - 9 = 8
Hard
2 x 6 x 5 - 8 = 52

**LOOP**



**KAKURO**

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# Why Are Electric Vehicles the Future of Commuting?

Electric vehicles (EVs) have witnessed a significant surge in popularity across the globe in recent years. With rising concerns about environmental sustainability, escalating fuel prices, and evolving technologies, more and more people are turning to electric mobility as a viable alternative to conventional fuel-based transportation. The demand for EVs is growing rapidly in India too, owing to their affordability in the long run, eco-friendliness, and low maintenance.

## The Rise of Electric Mobility

Experts said that a wave of change is sweeping through the automobile industry, with a wide range of electric vehicles now entering the market. These include battery-operated two-wheelers, three-wheelers, electric cars, plug-in hybrids, and fuel-cell-powered vehicles. Several major automobile manufacturers are investing heavily in research and development to bring more efficient, cost-effective, and user-friendly EVs to the market. As a result, today's electric vehicles come with better battery capacity, increased driving range, and faster charging capabilities.

An EV expert said, "Government incentives and subsidies have further contributed to the growing popularity of EVs. From reduced road tax to financial incentives on vehicle purchase, these benefits are encouraging consumers to shift away from petrol and diesel vehicles."

## A Sustainable and Economical Choice

"One of the biggest advantages of electric vehicles is their minimal impact on the environment. Unlike traditional vehicles, EVs do not emit harmful gases or pollutants, making them ideal for reducing air pollution and controlling global warming. With global temperatures on the rise, many countries have set ambitious goals to ban petrol and diesel vehicles within the next 10 to 20 years. As such, EVs are not just an option—they are fast becoming a necessity", said an EV expert.

In addition to being environmentally friendly, electric vehicles are economical in the long run. They require significantly lower maintenance compared to fuel-based vehicles. EVs do not need oil changes, fuel filters, or extensive engine servicing, thanks to their simpler mechanical structure. Their running cost is also lower, as electricity is cheaper than petrol or diesel.

## A Promising Future

The future of electric vehicles looks promising. With new models being launched regularly and advancements in battery technology, prices are expected to fall further. Many companies are now focusing on fast-charging solutions and long-range EVs to address consumer concerns.

As awareness grows and infrastructure improves, India is poised to witness an EV revolution. Electric vehicles are not just the future—they are already here, offering a cleaner, smarter, and more sustainable way to travel. The road ahead may have a few bumps, but it's electric all the way.

"Switching to an electric vehicle has been one of the best decisions I've made—not just for my wallet, but for the planet too. I drive a lot for work, and the savings on fuel alone have been incredible. I used to spend thousands on petrol every year, but now I simply plug in at home overnight. The maintenance is minimal—no oil changes, no engine problems, just smooth, silent drives. What I love most is the peace of mind knowing I'm reducing my carbon footprint. It feels good to be part of the solution to air pollution and climate change. Plus, with government subsidies and tax benefits, the initial investment didn't feel like a burden. The future is electric, and I'm proud to be driving it", said Rahul N, a marketing executive.

TECHKNOW

# Mayday! Back-up in a blind spot

## Redundant aviation safety net helps keep planes safe when controllers lose contact

It was alarming news when air traffic controllers directing planes coming and going around one of the nation's busiest airports repeatedly lost their radar and radio communications, but pilots, independent air safety experts and the Federal Aviation Administration say other redundant systems kept planes from colliding.

"I think the risk of a collision or an incident was increased, but not significantly because of the redundancy in the aviation system," said Jeff Guzzetti, a former accident investigator for the FAA and the National Transportation Safety Board. Crashes like January's deadly collision between a passenger jet and an Army helicopter usually have different causes — a combination of many things that go wrong, he says.

Here's a look at what happened in Newark — and how key pieces of the safety net protected planeloads of people. The radar and communications systems that a terminal control team in Philadelphia relies on to direct planes in and out of Newark International Airport simultaneously failed twice in the past month for brief periods. The main line that carries the radar signal from another FAA facility in New York failed, and the backup line didn't work immediately. The system relies in part on aging copper wires and even when there are fiber optic lines, the signal has to be slowed down when it reaches the facility because the FAA computers are so old they can't handle all the data at full speed.

As a result, the controllers were suddenly unable to see or communicate with planes coming from or going to Newark for as long as 90 seconds on April 28 and May 9. Their radar screens showing each flights in motion suddenly went black. Their radio connections went silent. The main line failed a third time May 11, but the backup system worked and the radar stayed online. The FAA said a fourth outage Monday knocked out radio communications for two seconds, but the radar stayed online.

After the initial outage, the already shorthanded control center in Philadelphia lost five to seven controllers to trauma leave. Newark's terminal control team could no longer manage a full schedule of handoffs with the airport's control tower, leading to hundreds of flight cancellations and delays that rippled across the nation's airlines. The FAA then imposed safety limits, allowing no more than 28 arrivals and 28 departures every hour.

When air traffic controllers lose the ability to see or speak to airborne planes, they can try text messaging the pilots via data link systems or try high-powered portable radios. An emergency radio frequency might also be an alternative if main communications are down. Tower controllers have high-powered light guns to send a green or red signal to pilots to let them know if they are clear to land even if they can't talk to them over the radio.

## Radar sites

And the entire air traffic control system is built on an overlapping network of radar sites. So if a terminal control team like the one in Philadelphia loses its communications, a controller in a radar center that normally directs planes at higher altitudes might step in. If some other controller in the area hears a pilot broadcasting on an emergency frequency, they too can relay a message.

Every pilot is trained on what to do if they can't talk to the air traffic controllers, and modern passenger jets have their own backup systems. Airline pilots all regularly get refresher training emphasizing safety. Capt. Miles Morgan oversees all training for 17,000 United Airlines pilots at a facility in Denver filled with simulators and classrooms. He said losing communications is rare, but it's something pilots prepare for, as most training focuses on what to do if something goes wrong.

"I've been flying for 30 years. I've got almost 18,000 hours in United airplanes -- jets, and I've lost communication one time," Morgan said. "It ended up not being a big deal. I went to the emergency frequency, got a different channel, and contacted a different facility to get back into communication." **AP**

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# Cannes calling

## Alia Bhatt reveals what's in her bag as she jets off

Debunking rumours that she skipped the Cannes Film Festival due to India-Pakistan tensions, actress Alia Bhatt is on her way to the French Riviera and has revealed what she's carrying with her.

Alia took to her Instagram Stories, where she shared a picture of her Gucci suitcase, which included a makeup bag filled with goodies and the phrase 'I'm worth it' written on it. She is also carrying two books, including Atomic Habits by James Clear.

For the caption, she wrote: "Off we go." The actress was spotted at the Mumbai airport early Friday morning, dressed in a beige trench coat paired with a fitted white top and baggy blue jeans. She completed her look with sunglasses. Alia is set to make her debut on the Cannes red carpet.

On the worl front, Alia will be seen in the upcoming all-female super spy film 'Alpha'.

Directed by Shiv Rawail, 'Alpha' will mark the seventh film in Yash Raj Films' expansive spy universe. This universe began with the 'Tiger' franchise. The saga continued with 'War', 'Pathaan', and 'Tiger 3'. Upcoming films in the franchise include 'War 2', directed by Ayan Mukerji, 'Pathaan 2', and 'Tiger vs. Pathaan'.

The makers of 'Alpha' revealed that the film will hit the screens on Christmas. In the film, Alia and Sharvari both play super agents. She also has filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali's "Love and War" alongside her husband, Ranbir Kapoor and Vicky Kaushal. This marks Alia's second collaboration with Bhansali, following the 2022 drama 'Gangubai Kathiawadi'.

—IANS

SANDALWOOD
## SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

### A stepping stone

Many prospective directors and actors have considered short films as a stepping stone to bigger success in Sandalwood. Now, Yashwant M has joined the list of such actors.

The screening of Akrosha, a 30-minute short film, was arranged at Renukamba Preview Theatre recently. Veteran director Om Sai Prakash, director-cum-actor Purushotham Omkar, and Rathnamala graced the event. The movie Akrosha is directed by Gowrishree.

"Rathnamala introduced producer Jagadeesh Varma to me. Jagadeesh Varma, during the discussion, told me that he wanted to bankroll a Kannada movie to introduce his son as a hero. I advised Varma to bankroll a short film as it would facilitate his son to know the basics of acting. I told him to make a feature film with Yashwant as the hero after completing the short film," said Gowrishree.

Gowrishree said she has handled the megaphone for Amoolya, Reethu, Janarakshaka, and Bharathi IPS. "Amoolya and Janarakshaka are ready for release. I completed writing the script for Akrosha in one day and wrapped up its shooting in two days. I am very happy with the acting skills of Yashwant who learnt Kannada language to act in the film," she said.

### Dubbing in Tamil

Dr Shivarajkumar, known as Karunada Chakravarthy and Hattrick Hero in Sandalwood, is also familiar to Tamil and Telugu moviegoers. Now, Dr Shivarajkumar is set to dub his voice in Tamil for the forthcoming multilingual movie 45 that arrives in theatres across the country in a few months.

"I have completed dubbing for the Kannada version of 45. I have started dubbing for the Tamil version. I am trying to dub my voice for other language versions. I am confident of completing dubbing for other language versions as there is a time for the release of the movie," said Dr Shivarajkumar.

Music director Arjun Janya debuts as a director with 45. Dr Shivarajkumar said that Arjun Janya has the potential to become a pan-India director. "45 will become a huge success not only in Kannada but also in other languages. I thank producer Ramesh Reddy for providing all facilities. I consider him as our family member," said Shivarajkumar.

A lyrical video song - Shivam Shivam Sanaathanam - was unveiled on Saturday by Maha Mandaleswara Maharaja Swamiji. Arjun Janya thanked Shivarajkumar for his support.


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